

Killington Trip Report

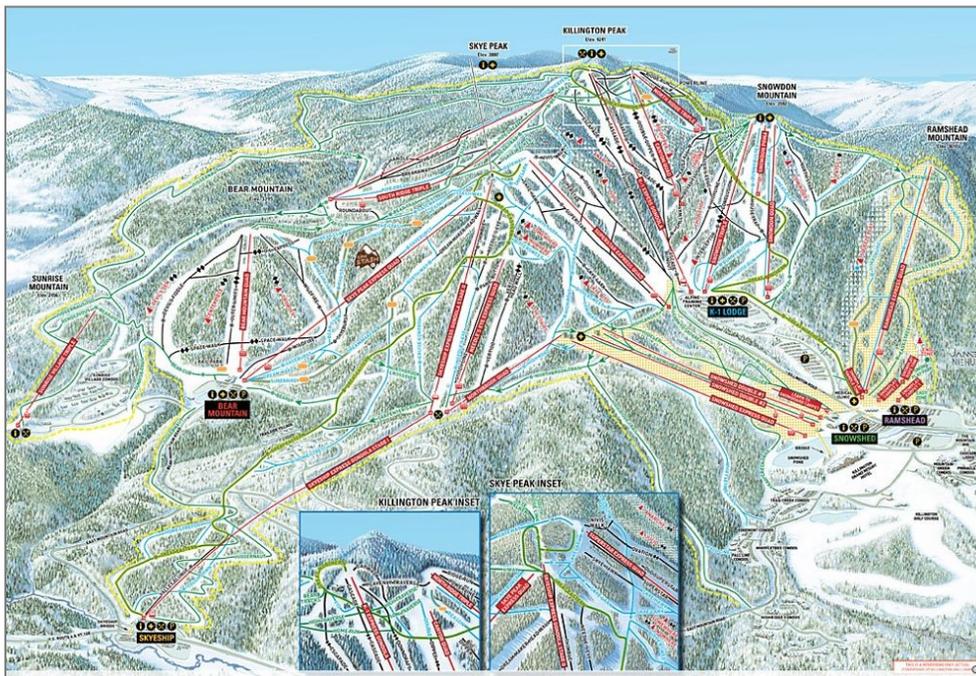
January 24-27, 2013



Location: Killington Ski Resort, Vermont

Arrived: Thursday, January 24th Departed: Sunday, January 27th

Ski Days: 3 total: Friday, January 25th – Sunday, January 27th



Lodging: The Cascades Lodge (<http://cascadeslodge.com/>) + Thursday night at Hampton Inn, Bennington, VT



Trip Leader: Elaine Petro (Elaine.Petro@nasa.gov; 301-286-5104)

Number of Attendees: 23 Adults + 1 (incredibly cute) child

Additional Activities: Après Ski party Friday evening

Night out @ Wobbly Barn

Group Dinner Saturday evening @ Lookout Tavern

Trip Narrative:

Thursday

Everyone departed for Killington at their own leisure on Thursday, January 24th for Vermont. Most group members stayed at the Hampton Inn in Bennington, VT on Thursday night (about 7 hours from the DC area) and drove the remaining 1.5 hours to Killington on Friday morning.

Friday

Elaine passed out lift tickets at the Cascades Lodge between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. on Friday morning. All but one room was ready that morning, so everyone was able to check in their rooms and drop off their things before hitting the slopes. The group whose room was not ready placed their things in the trip leader's room.

Conditions were good on the mountain Friday (groomed, packed powder) and crowds were sparse. Temperatures were brisk (highs around 10 degrees, or less); but the sun was shining and everyone seemed to have dressed warm enough and took advantage of the enclosed rides on the gondolas.

After leaving the slopes, many people took a dip in the hot tub and/or pool. Then there was an Après Ski Party with snacks and wine in the party room next to the pool.





The party lasted from about 6:00 to 7:15 when all the wine and most of the snacks had been finished off. The trip organizer then arranged for whoever was interested to head over to the Wobbly Barn (<http://www.wobblybarn.net/site/index.html>) at 8:00 p.m. The rest of the group members elected to have dinner at the Cascades Lodge restaurant and seemed quite happy with their food & experience.

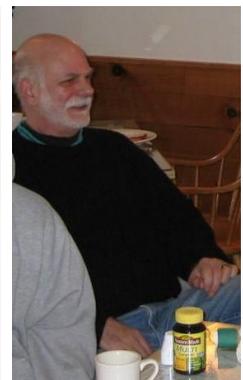
A free shuttle bus came and picked up the group of ~15 people who decided to go to the Wobbly Barn. A small subset of that group got a nice steak dinner at the barn and the others went straight to the bar. A cover band called “Gypsy Wisdom” played from about 10 p.m. until 1 a.m.



Saturday

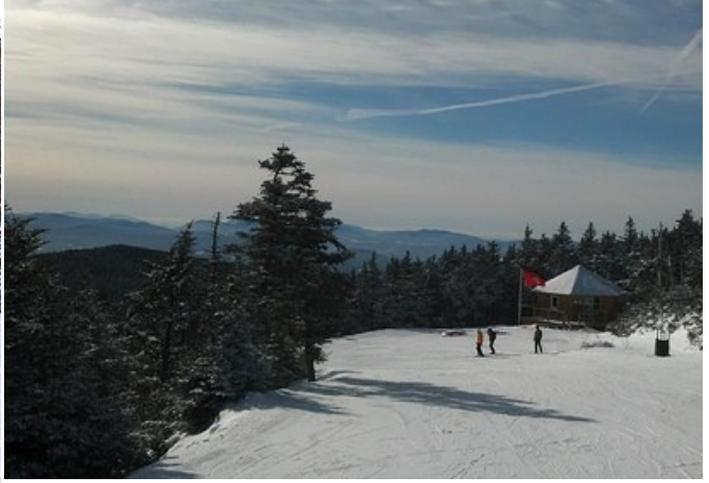
Despite the late night out at the Wobbly Barn, everyone made it up for breakfast and hit the slopes early the next day. The lodge had a nice buffet breakfast that consisted of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, French toast, and other breakfast staples.

The picture to the right is sunrise out the east facing rooms. See pictures on next page of dining room and some of the group at breakfast.



Crowds were smaller than expected Saturday on the mountain. The only measurable lift lines were at the K1 Gondola, and even those weren't more than a few minutes wait time. Conditions were similar to Friday – groomed & packed powder with some ice showing up by late afternoon.





A group dinner was arranged for those who were interested that night around 6:30 p.m. The dinner was held at The Lookout Tavern (<http://www.lookoutvt.com/>). The restaurant offered a free shuttle (which turned out to be a minivan) and took most of the group in 2 trips – Jeff DLB took the rest of the group in his minivan – thanks, Jeff!



They managed to squeeze us (~20 people) at 2 tables in the back room after about a 10-15 minute wait. The food was pretty good but it was a bit crowded going on a Saturday night.

Most of the group just hung around in the lodge after dinner Saturday evening. The restaurant part of the lodge had a lounge with a fireplace, TV, checker board, puzzle table, and pool table (plus a bar)



Sunday

The lodge allowed our group to keep one late checkout room (until 4:30 p.m.) that everyone could store their things in while out on the slopes. This was much appreciated for those of us who decided to meet back and change before heading home.

Conditions on the mountain Sunday were similar to Friday and Saturday. However, some people decided to venture over to Pico. They found that the conditions there were actually a little better than Killington – perhaps due to the lower crowds. There were no lift lines at all and nice snow on the trails. If we go again, we think we might check Pico out earlier in the trip.



Everyone left the mountain on their own time and some people skied the whole last day! Thanks to everyone who came for making it a great trip!!! Hope to see you all again on future trips!

Elaine Petro
Killington Trip Leader
Goddard Ski Club Secretary